



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/736,081	12/15/2003	Alan G. Dry	1-74127	3258

27377 7590 10/04/2004

MACMILLAN, SOBANSKI & TODD, LLC
ONE MARITIME PLAZA-FOURTH FLOOR
720 WATER STREET
TOLEDO, OH 43604

EXAMINER

ORTIZ, ANGELA Y

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

1732

DATE MAILED: 10/04/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

SC

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/736,081	Applicant(s) DRY ET AL.	
	Examiner Angela Ortiz	Art Unit 1732	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 December 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 15 December 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>(1)</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 3, 5, 7-9, 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Sanchez et al., USP 5,756,026.

The cited reference teaches the claimed method of forming an interior trim component comprising a composite of textile fabric coated with a moldable backing layer. The backing layer is exposed to radiant heating in a preheating process prior to placing the fabric within the mold, until the backing layer has softened or melted. The fabric is preheated to a temperature above the melting point of the backing layer, and is brought into contact with the backing layer so as to bond the two layers. The two layers are placed within the mold cavity of a compression molding apparatus. A compression molding process is performed as is well known in the molding art. See col. 5, lines 1-30, 60-67 and col. 6, lines 1-13, 55-67.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

Art Unit: 1732

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 2, 4, 6, 10, 12-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sanchez et al., USP 5,756,026.

The cited reference substantially teaches the basic claimed method of forming an interior trim component comprising a composite of textile fabric coated with a moldable backing layer. The backing layer is exposed to radiant heating in a preheating process prior to placing the fabric within the mold, until the backing layer has softened or melted. The fabric is preheated to a temperature above the melting point of the backing layer, and is brought into contact with the backing layer so as to bond the two layers. The two layers are placed within the mold cavity of a compression molding apparatus. A compression molding process is performed as is well known in the molding art. See col. 5, lines 1-30, 60-67 and col. 6, lines 1-13, 55-67.

The cited reference does not teach the claimed melting range, the light source per se, melting a thermoplastic first material, or a multilayered first material as claimed.

Note that the added reference does set forth that the fabric layer may be a composite of thermoplastic materials, as well as a textile fabric with a thermoplastic face layer. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to so include any number of conventional materials, including composite layers as claimed and similarly shown in the applied reference, for molding a trim component of varied equivalent materials.

With respect to the claimed light source, note that the reference teaches conventional sources of radiant heat, and various control means for operating the lights. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide any number of conventional radiant heat means as claimed, for equivalently heating the layer as desired.

With respect to the claimed melted range, note that such ranges are conventional in the molding art and are further readily determined through routine experimentation.

Conclusion


The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. USP's 3049762; 3673034; 4357381; 5164142; 5824251.

Art Unit: 1732

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Angela Ortiz whose telephone number is 571-272-1206. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 9:00-6:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Colaianne can be reached on 571-272-1196. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Angela Ortiz
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1732

ao